

Settlement: Cobhall Common

Location of Investigation

Figure 1: Large Scale Map showing the location of Cobhall Common

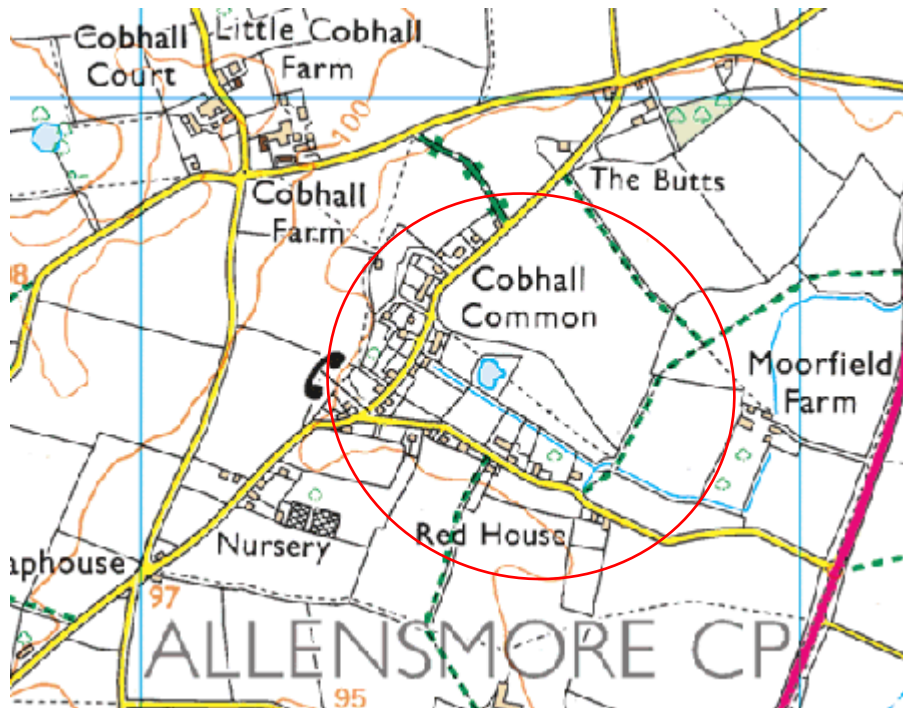


Figure 2: Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), June 2021



Date of key flood event	February 16 th 2020
Authorities with risk management duties or functions relating to the event	Herefordshire Council (Land Drainage Authority)

The watercourse is designated as an Ordinary Watercourse which therefore falls under the regulatory supervision of Herefordshire Council Land Drainage Authority.

In the 1980s, South Herefordshire Council installed a deep Land Drain to help facilitate positive drainage within the Cobhall Common area. The land drain is subjected to an annual inspection, the last inspection was completed on 11th February 2021.

Key Flood Event

Flood Type: Surface Water

Watercourse Catchment:

A total of four properties were flooded internally in Cobhall Common during February 2020 with all internal flooding reported to be at a depth of less than 6 inches. There are reports that another property flooded in the vicinity of Courtlands Farm, although the extent of flooding is unclear.

Sandbags were delivered to one property on 16th February 2020.

None of the properties which reported internal flooding reported it having happened previously. A separate respondent, who experienced only garden flooding, stated this was an annual occurrence. Herefordshire Council records for this location identify some history of flooding at this location.

Number of Internally Flooded Properties related to key flood event	4
Number of Internally Flooded Properties during most acute flood	4
Impact on Strategic Highway Network	None reported
Impact on Critical Services	None reported
Health Risks	No injuries or loss of life were reported

Description of Flooding

The Flood Map for Planning indicates that all the properties which reported flooding in Cobhall Common are in Flood Zone 1. However, OS mapping shows small watercourses close to the affected properties that do not appear to have been included in this risk mapping. The EA Surface Water Flood Map indicates that all the properties which reported flooding in Cobhall Common are within or adjacent to areas at risk of surface water flooding.

For the property in the vicinity of Courtlands Farm, the area of surface water flood risk appears to coincide with the small watercourse which flows from north to south around the Goose Pool area, which then passes under the A465, close to the affected properties. It is therefore possible that these properties were affected by fluvial flooding. One of the respondents in this area attributes flooding to overflows from a ditch, describing 'flood water due to overflow from the goose pool and culvert under the A465'. Though they do not attribute flooding to a watercourse this appears to be a question of whether the channel in question is a drainage feature or watercourse. Our inspection has identified that the highway culvert is slightly higher than the field.

The properties around Cobhall Common are also close to the head of a small watercourse, but there are only a series of highway gullies receiving runoff from the lane. The Surface Water Flood Map identifies areas of flood risk to the south and west of the affected properties which appear to be

surface water flow routes which pass through the affected area. This would indicate that there is a contribution to flood risk from overland flows. However, the Surface Water Flood Map also indicates a larger area of surface water flood risk on the common, directly to the east of the affected properties. This appears to show water from the common backing up towards Cobhall Common Road. This would indicate that there is a contribution to flood risk from fluvial sources. Respondents in this area attribute the source of flooding to a wide range of factors, but these factors are typically associated with surface water runoff rather than fluvial flows. The descriptions of flood mechanisms also describe flows from the fields and roads, rather than from watercourses.

Damage to Cultural Heritage Sites: There are no listed buildings.

Previous reports of floods

Prior to the 16th February 2020 flood event, no previous flood events have been reported.

Previous Flood Risk Studies

There are no flood risk studies previously undertaken at this location.

Conclusions

Three properties experienced internal flooding in Cobhall Common during February 2020, with depths of 6 inches or less reported. The information reviewed for this study indicates that there is limited evidence of historic flooding in this area.

The most likely flood mechanism for the area around Courtlands Farm is fluvial flows from the unnamed watercourse which passes under the A465. The most likely flood mechanism around Cobhall Common is overland flows.